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Dr. Clarke's intellectual position may perhaps be most decidedly inferred from his paper on Washington, in which he selects Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, as the four greatest Americans, and from his opinion that "William Shakespeare stands at the summit of human intelligence; that of all mankind, since creation, his is the supreme intellect." The range of the author's liberality may be judged from his defense of Rousseau against the charge of being an infidel, and his pronouncing him to be a Christian who had doubts about the miracles. Perhaps careful students of Rousseau who might not object to this statement of his belief would be less satisfied with the author's view of Rousseau's genius and career. "He was a man of genius—that is, a man of ideas; but the ideas which possessed him were not those of the eighteenth century, but of the nineteenth." For Rousseau would have suffered from his weakness in our century so long as he kept his essential characteristic as a man who was run away with by his feelings, and whose most positive ideas were all electric and tremulous with sensibility, the slave of his emotions and perhaps of his passions to the last. In his treatment of Rousseau, as of Shakespeare, the author looks mainly at the intellectual aspects of genius, and little comparatively to its practical force and artistic ability. Therefore he throws little light on the Genevan's marvelous style and the Englishman's marvelous constructive art. How to think the subject out is one thing, and how to put the thought or fancy into shape and life, this is another thing, and one which is not much discussed in this instructive and interesting but somewhat fragmentary volume.

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2.—*Villari's Machiavelli*. PASQUALE VILLARI. *Niccolò Machiavelli e i suoi tempi illustrati con nuovi documenti*. Vol. I. Firenze: Successori Le Monnier. 1877. 8vo, pp. xx.-647.

OF the many problematical characters of the Renaissance, none has been judged more severely or more differently than Machiavelli. For some he is the patriotic statesman who first realized the idea of the modern state; for others he is the sycophant and apologist of a despot who wished to enslave his country; while those who judge him from the standpoint of literary history frown on him as an immoral playwright. In common with other great countrymen, Machiavelli has followed the vicissitudes of Italy. Nothing is more interesting than to trace the posthumous career of Dante and Petrarch, for example, and see through what different

phases they have passed, from mere poets to exponents of modern political systems. Machiavelli, from the nature of the case, has always taken a prominent place among the public men of Italy, but the changes of his posthumous fame have not been less clearly marked. The phase on which Italy has just entered bids fair to produce a revolution in her past history ; it must be rewritten or reread in the reflected light of the present. Not merely that the increase of intellectual activity has brought out from dusty archives (now made accessible for the first time to scholars) masses of hitherto unused material, but the national consciousness sees a new and deep significance in a past whose sporadic and ineffectual efforts after national unity are all precious to a generation that has achieved the great boon. Doubtless we shall hear much about rehabilitation, but there can be no question that we shall obtain a truer idea of many things that puzzle us in that most puzzling of all epochs—the Renaissance. It is, as we have just hinted, Machiavelli's political ideas which, viewed in the light of the present, assume such interesting proportions, that have brought him just now into prominence, and tempted one of Italy's greatest scholars to undertake the task of giving the world for the first time a correct picture of the man who, with all his great genius, was simply the war secretary of the Florentine Commonwealth.

The author, so favorably known by his admirable "Life of Savonarola,"\* appreciating the fact that it is only by an acquaintance with the period that one can understand Machiavelli's life, has prefixed to his biography proper an elaborate introduction of three hundred pages, divided into four parts. The first gives a general and vivid sketch of the Renaissance ; the second treats briefly the history and condition of the principal Italian states—Milan, Florence, Venice, Rome, and Naples ; the third describes the literary movement of the period from Petrarch and the beginning of the Renaissance down to the revival of Italian literature in the fifteenth century ; and, finally, the fourth discusses the political state of Italy at the end of the fifteenth century, the election of Pope Alexander VI., the invasion of Italy by Charles VIII., the Borgias, and Savonarola and the Florentine Republic. This elaborate introduction will, doubtless, be compared with two recent works covering much the same ground : we allude to the fourth book of Von Reumont's "Lorenzo de' Medici" (Leipsic, 1874, 2 vols.), in which he gives a splendid account of the Medici in their relations to literature and

\* Translated by Leonard Horner. London : Longmans. 1863. 2 vols.

art, and Symonds's "Renaissance in Italy" (London, 1875-1877), the first two volumes of which describe the social, political, and literary conditions of this period. While Villari's introduction is more condensed, its outlines are necessarily sharper, no feature of importance is omitted, and it would be difficult to find elsewhere a more admirable *résumé* of the history of the Italian Renaissance.

The introduction is followed by a portion of the first book, which is to contain the biography of Machiavelli from his birth in 1469 to his removal from office by the Medici in 1512. The first volume contains the biography only to the year 1507. An appendix of over a hundred pages contains a large number of inedited documents, among them many autograph letters and reports.

The period of Machiavelli's life here narrated is, like almost all of it, a record of his services to the state, the most interesting consisting of an interminable series of embassies, in which he had all the labor and none of the honor of an ambassador. In this period fall his first legation to France, and the beginning of his connection with Cæsar Borgia, which was to bring such infamy on him. The end of the volume coincides with the institution of the Florentine militia, 1505-1507. We must await the appearance of the second volume (which the author, unfortunately, does not promise very soon) before we can form a clear opinion of the new Machiavelli. Whatever may be the judgment of the author, the reader and the future world will have for the first time all the materials for the formation of an independent opinion, and the means of testing the views of others.

We must not omit, in conclusion, to add that to the author's painstaking researches we owe the valuable and interesting dispatches of Giustinian, the Venetian ambassador at Rome from 1502 to 1505,\* which Villari found in the Venetian archives while collecting the materials for the present work.

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3.—*A Statistical Account of Bengal.* By W. W. HUNTER, LL. D., Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India, etc., etc. London: Trübner & Co. 1875-'77. 8vo, 20 vols.

THIS great and important work is only the first installment of one still greater and more important. The British Government has undertaken to assemble and publish, upon a uniform plan, a body

\* *Dispacci di Antonio Giustinian, Ambasciatore veneto in Roma dal 1502 al 1505. Per la prima volta pubblicati da Pasquale Villari.* Firenze: Successori Le Monnier. 1876. 3 vols., 12mo.